

Research Activity Report
Supported by “Leading Graduate Program in Primatology and Wildlife Science”
 (Please be sure to submit this report after the trip that supported by PWS.)

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Affiliation/Position	Primate Research Institute/M1
Name	Shenwen Xu

1. Country/location of visit
Japan/Tokyo
2. Research project
34th Congress of the Primate Society of Japan
3. Date (departing from/returning to Japan)
2018. 7. 13 – 2018. 7. 15 (3 days)
4. Main host researcher and affiliation
Musashi University

5. Progress and results of your research/activity (You can attach extra pages if needed)
 Please insert one or more pictures (to be publicly released). Below each picture, please provide a brief description.



The Congress of the Primate Society of Japan is the largest domestic meeting of primatology researchers. It is also one of the oldest primatology conferences in the world. Even though all topics have primates as their subject in common, the themes which have been addressed were over a broad scope.

On the first day, I attended a workshop which was talking about how the use of AI technologies could change the relationship between human and non-human primates. According to the talk from the engineers, despite the recent technical difficulties, we almost could tell that it is already a viable technology to substitute the machine for the human observer to record the behavior of primates. However, how the work will be done, and what will be the next big challenge or the next thing to be questioned is unpredictable. Other presenters gave some temporary ideas,

especially the discussion of what is “a better observer/data” was impressive. I think I got many new sights of the way how to think of my own work. Maybe a machine which makes human feel anxious about themselves and as a result push us to think deeper could be called a good one.

I introduced the study of my undergraduate research on the second day, which was about ordering strategies of a three-choice task by free-ranging Japanese monkeys. It was my first time to have an oral presentation at the congress. I found so difficult to make a clear and brief talk during the preparation. After I finished my presentation, I felt there are definitely a lot of things need to improve. I really appreciate that I got many constructive comments and suggestions from my seniors and supervisors. They helped me to realize that one of

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the most important reasons which caused my talk’s unclearness was by virtue of not giving a main aim of the study. To come up with a better presentation, I need to organize every single word I use both in my talk and on the slides, highly connected and make them more explicit. Also, it was a great opportunity for me to learn from other senior researchers both who are sharing the similar research interest with me and who are studying in a completely different field. To be honest, since I am lack of knowledge some talks were still quite difficult for me to fully understand. Nevertheless, it was a good chance to learn from other researchers directly, including the way they manage their language.

6. Others

I would like to thank PWS for supporting this trip.